GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7088
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
BIS BENCHMARK TO ELECTRICAL ITEMS
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY;RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Many electrical items do not conform to BIS benchmark` appearing in the Time of India dated April 17, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps have been taken to implement strictly the Quality Control Order 1993 passed under the Essential Commodities Act;

(c) whether sub-standards electrical items have on many occasions been responsible for fire accidents; and

(d) if so, the number of units sealed/raided for manufacturing and selling sub-standards electrical items in the counrty during each of the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) &(b): The newsitem referred to in part (a) of the Question mentioned about the implementation of the Electric Wires, Cables, Appliances and Accessories (Quality Control) Order, 1993 and the comparative testing of certain electric goods by the Consumer Education and Research Society, Ahmedabad.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification (ISI Mark) for electric items is voluntary. However, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the aforesaid Quality Control Order was issued by the then Department of Industrial Development in the Ministry of Industry (now Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in 1993 with the objective of maintaining quality of the electric items being sold in the market. This Order, inter alia, provided that the following items cannot be manufactured, sold or distribution in the market unless they conform to specified standards and bear Standard (ISI) Mark of the Bureau:-

1. Electric Immersion Water Heaters.

2. Electric Irons.

3. Electric Stoves.

4. Electric Radiators.

5. Switches for domestic and similar purposes. 6. 2 Amp switches for domestic and similar purposes.

7 3 Pin plugs and socket outlets.

Under the aforesaid Quality Control Order, powers have been delegated to various State Governments to appoint `Appropriate Authorities` who will have powers to call for information, take samples of items from the market, conduct raids, seize items not conforming to specified standards, etc. for enforcement of the Order.

The quality of ISI-marked products of the licensees is monitored by BIS through its certification marking scheme under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 and relevant regulations issued thereunder. Action, such as search and seizure, prosecution, etc. is also taken by the Bureau in case of complaints of misuse of its Standard Mark by non-licensees.

(c) Neither the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion nor the Bureau of Indian Standards have any specific information on this aspect.

(d) As regards action in this regard under the aforesaid Quality Control Order, the various State Governments are the enforcement authorities and no centralized information about raids, etc. is maintained by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

The searches and seizures carried out by BIS under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 against alleged misuse of BIS

Standard Mark by non-licensees on electric goods during the last three years is as under:-

1997-98 Nil
1998-99 3 (Karnataka 2 - Chandigarh - 1)
1999-2000 3 (Maharashtra - 1 and U.P. - 2)